
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MEETING MINUTES

7/22/08

The Board of Selectmen met in the Town Hall, Joseph F. Bilotta Meeting Room as scheduled with Thomas Alonzo, Steven M. deBettencourt, Thomas Mason, Dave Matthews and CAFO Kerry Speidel present, Paula Bertram absent. Meeting opened at 7:05 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Gerry Hyde, 912 Mass Ave. discussed the Chapter property (460 Howard St.), and informed the board that this property was one of the original granted house lots in Lunenburg, as such there is an historical argument in favor of purchasing it. He is very irritated about the status of the town right of way off of Gilchrest Street as we still don't know whether we own it or not. He is aware that it is in land court and questioning when we can hear about the status, has requested public records. Would recommend the town take a 25' right of way and this will serve the town.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman announced next Monday, July 28th @ 7:30 PM, prior to the band concert there will be a dedication of the Gazebo to Roger Gilchrest, plaque to be dedicated and posted on gazebo.

APPOINTMENTS

None

CURRENT BUSINESS

1. CAFO Updates – none

2. Minutes - Board of Selectmen regular session for 6/12/07, 7/15/08 and Ececutive Session for 6/12/07 reviewed and signed.

Warrants - #2 W/P 08, 6/30/08 - \$525,564.42, #2 09, 7/22/08 - \$434,984.35, #3 09, 7/23/08 - \$903,038.64 and #2 P09, 7/24/08 - \$445,851.11 reviewed and signed.

3. Special Town Meeting / Election – Open / Close Warrant – Board discussed the reason they want to consider this issue is the town's right of first refusal to purchase the Levite property at 460 Howard Street, currently under Chapter 61B.

CAFO presented the attached memo from Town Clerk, Kathryn Herrick. It may not make logistical sense to have the Towns election and the State Primary only one day apart, may want to schedule them at lease a week apart.

Dave stated that we need to pursue and would to look for a way to have it self funded, questioned options on how to purchase. Very cognizant of the towns' people prior vote on a previous debt exclusion question and it was a resounding no. The debt exclusion is not the way to fund this. The question is whether the townspeople are willing to fund this, we may need to look at selling off some of the lots on this property in order to accomplish this.

CAFO informed the board that a copy of the ballot is included with the warrant and could list several different options but this may make it more complicated.

Steve concerned given the economic circumstances that we not ask the people to fund this. He would be out on a debt exclusion but would be in favor of using the stabilization fund only if this board commits to refunding with free cash once it's been certified. Open to the idea of purchasing and if we gain the access for the back property, don't see any harm in trying to work with the developer to purchase that piece as time is of the essence.

Chair not here to pre-empt what the voters want, calling a special town meeting is for the opportunity for the voters to voice their opinion. May want to look at whatever proceeds come from any local development that may come and could go back directly to fund land purchases. Would ask this of town counsel and if we cannot do this, can this be written into the article or does it cross over state law.

CAFO believes that it could be written in such a way. We have traditionally used free cash to fund the capital budget and this alternative would have an impact for capial purchases for 2010.

Board concurred not to hold a special election as not in town's best interest to a debt exclusion at this time.

CAFO is ready to appoint the investigative committee, Tom M., willing to serve on committee as Board of Selectmen representative. Discussed putting multiple questions on the warrant, 3 alternatives. Charge of the committee should be to discuss multiple options and present on the warrant.

Dave motion to schedule town meeting no later than September 9th, Tom M. seconded voted unanimously. Board will open warrant at their next scheduled meeting on the 5th and close on the 12th. Questioned if it would be appropriate to try and negotiate with the developer, board would like to see this happen, not opposed to this action.

CAFO informed the board that Marion has discussed towns needs with the developer and he has informed her that if there is anything that the town would want he's willing to discuss. It may be appropriate to have Marion pursue.
Board would probably want to discuss in executive session. Requested a final printed sheet on timeline.

4. Action File Issues – Chair announced this Saturday, July 26th is the annual Cardboard boat race at the Town Beach @ 5:00 PM and the Board of Selectmen is scheduled to have their own boat in the race.

OLD BUSINESS

APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

Chair presented a letter of resignation from Peter Lincoln as a member the PACC as he has currently been appointed Chair of the Council on Aging. Office will send letter of appreciation and congratulations to appointment as chair of the Council on Aging. Requested volunteers from the public and submittal of talent bank form to fill this vacancy, as well as the vacancy that exists on the Finance Committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

Being no further business board voted unanimously to adjourn Regular Session at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Williams, Chief Administrative Assistant
Board of Selectmen